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Robert  
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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Seiji KOZONO, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/083,574

Confirmation No.: 5897

Filed: February 27, 2002

Docket No: Q68729

Group Art Unit: 2833

Examiner: Vu D. Hien



For: ENGAGEMENT DETECTING STRUCTURE IN CONNECTOR

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, along with a copy of the corresponding Communication from a Foreign Patent Office.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/083,574  
Attorney Docket No. Q68729

concurrently herewith a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e). No fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed thirty days or fewer from the communication from a foreign patent office and a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d) is attached.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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WASHINGTON OFFICE



23373

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: March 21, 2003

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO				Complete if Known	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> 				<i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>	
				<i>MAR 21 2003</i> <i>923</i>	
Sheet		1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number
					Q68729
					Application Number 10/083,574
					Confirmation Number 5897
					Filing Date February 27, 2002
					First Named Inventor Seiji KOZONO
					Art Unit 2833
					Examiner Name Vu D. Hien

## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		
		US 6,186,819	B1	02-13-2001	Holub
		US 6,116,939	A	09-12-2000	Fukuda
		US 6,102,726	A	08-15-2000	Tsuji et al.
		US			

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

#### **OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov), MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.

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**STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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